



Homeland
Security

December 15, 2011

Jason Smathers
MuckRock News
DEPT MR 934
P.O. Box 55819
Boston, MA 02205-5819

Re: **DHS Appeal Number A-12-0028**
FOIA Request Number PRIV 12-0105

Dear Mr. Smathers:

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has received your appeal of the response by the Privacy Office (PRIV) to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request concerning records associated with Mr. Obama, Senior's A-file. On behalf of the Deputy Associate General Counsel for General Law, we acknowledge your appeal and are assigning it number **A-12-0028** for tracking purposes. Please reference this number in any future communications about your appeal.

A high number of FOIA requests have been received by the Department. Accordingly, we have adopted the court-sanctioned practice of generally handling backlogged appeals on a first-in, first-out basis.¹ While we will make every effort to process your appeal on a timely basis, there may be some delay in resolving this matter. Should you have any questions concerning the processing of your appeal, please contact me at james.holzer@hq.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James V. McHolzer, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Holzer
Director
Disclosure and FOIA Operations

¹ Appeals of expedited treatment denials will be handled on an expedited basis.